



Langley Research Center Safety Alert

SA-14-91

Date: November 8, 1991

TO: All Facility Safety Heads
All Facility Coordinators

FROM: 429/Head, Risk Management Branch, SSQRD

SUBJECT: Asbestos Configuration Management

An Asbestos Configuration Management Program (ACMP) is being implemented at LaRC. The driving force behind the program is a myriad of clean air emission regulations established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Commonwealth of Virginia. This program will increase safety awareness and minimize the risk of asbestos exposure to all personnel working at LaRC, while instituting controls to prevent the release of asbestos fibers and restrict future use of asbestos in Center facilities.

Over 250 facilities have been surveyed to identify friable (easily crumbled) and nonfriable asbestos containing building materials. The surveys only documented ACCESSIBLE asbestos. Statistical sampling was performed. Although some facilities were surveyed in areas above ceiling tiles, most surveys were limited to areas that could be reached easily by ladder without moving tiles or opening ceiling areas.

THEREFORE, NOT ALL ASBESTOS IN ANY GIVEN FACILITY HAS BEEN LOCATED.

The existing contract with Technology Applications, Inc. (TAI), for configuration management support has been modified to include Asbestos Configuration Management. Copies of the surveys are being provided to SSQRD, FENG, facility and OSD/EG&G personnel. The survey results will form the baseline CM document. Changes to this baseline from the discovery, as well as the removal, of asbestos in a facility will be made in accordance with LHB 1740.4, "Facility Systems Safety and Configuration Management." Input for changes will be provided through Industrial Hygiene audits, construction/demolition activities, and maintenance Work Orders (69s).

As with all other aspects of the LaRC Configuration Management Program, the Facility Safety Head and Facility Coordinator are the keys to the success of this program.

TAI personnel soon will be making distribution of the asbestos surveys. Surveys will be distributed in the following order:

1. Occupied facilities with asbestos.
2. Unoccupied facilities with asbestos.
3. Occupied facilities without asbestos.
4. Unoccupied facilities without asbestos.

Distribution is expected to be completed by February 1, 1992. If you have not received your survey by this date, please contact Mr. C. B. Zeitman at extension 43371.

Since performance of the asbestos surveys was initiated in 1989, it is important for facility personnel to note the date that their particular survey was performed and to review their records for subsequent occurrences of asbestos removal in their facility. They must then submit this information to TAI so that the surveys may be updated to reflect current status.

Asbestos Configuration Management is an important new undertaking at LaRC that can make for a safer place to work. Thank you for your cooperation with regard to this new program.

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